



Maryland Agriculture Data
Weekly Crop and Weather Report

2002
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

MD-CW2702

September 30, 2002

Small Grain Planting Begins Ahead of Schedule

Despite showers on Thursday and Friday, Maryland farmers used the 4.7 **days suitable for field work** for harvesting activities and planting **small grains**. **Barley seeding** is underway at 17 percent, 14 percent more than last year, and 6 percent ahead of the five year average. **Winter wheat** is 9 percent planted, 8 percent ahead of last year, and 7 percent ahead of the average. Moisture received this week will help small grain germination. Precipitation for the week ranged from .3 inches in Somerset County to 3.7 inches in Washington County.

Harvesting activities continue for corn, apples, lima beans, and sorghum. **Corn harvested for grain** is over halfway complete at 66 percent, 33 percent more than last year, and 35 percent more than the five year average. **Corn harvested for silage** is nearly complete at 95 percent, 11 percent ahead of last year, and 15 percent ahead of the average. **Apples** are 65 percent harvested, 25 percent ahead of last year, and 20 percent ahead of the average. **Lima beans, for processing only**, are also 65 percent harvested, 19 percent behind last year, and 17 percent behind the average. Ten percent of the **sorghum** crop has been harvested, 13 percent behind last year, and 7 percent behind the average. **Soybean** harvest is just beginning.

The rain boosted topsoil moisture, however considerably more precipitation is needed to fill ponds and recharge aquifers. **Topsoil** is rated 1 percent surplus, 40 percent adequate, 52 percent short, and 7 percent very short. Twenty percent of **subsoil** is rated in adequate supply, 40 percent short, and 40 percent very short. **Pasture** conditions improved from the previous week with 2 percent rated excellent, 16 percent good, 41 percent fair, 28 percent poor, and 13 percent very poor.

MARYLAND'S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 29, 2002 (PERCENT)

ITEM	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1997-2001
Harvesting Progress:				
Apples	65	48	40	45
Corn, for grain	66	47	33	31
Corn, for silage	95	93	84	79
Lima beans, for processing only	65	60	84	- -
Sorghum	10	5	23	17
Crop Progress:				
Corn, mature	95	89	89	80
Sorghum, turning color	78	39	95	84
Sorghum, mature	43	20	63	38
Soybeans, turning color	82	74	54	57
Soybeans, dropping leaves	52	37	26	30
Small Grain Seeding:				
Barley	17	- -	3	11
Winter Wheat	9	- -	1	2
Hay Harvested:				
Other hay, 4 th cutting	34	25	51	53
Alfalfa, 4 th cutting	70	67	79	68

CROP CONDITION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 29, 2002 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Sorghum	0	30	30	40	0
Soybeans	33	25	26	16	0
Range & Pasture	12	28	41	16	2

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Coming in December